IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An apparatus for a redundant interconnection between multiple hosts and a RAID, comprising:

a plurality of RAID controlling units for processing a requirement of numerous host computers; and

a plurality of connection units for connecting the plurality of RAID controlling units to the numerous host computers; and

, wherein each of the plurality of RAID controlling units includes a plural number of network interface controlling units respectively contained into the plurality of RAID controlling units, for directly exchanging information directly with the numerous host computers and an opposite a network interface controlling unit provided within an opposite included in another RAID controlling units, through the plurality of connecting units.

Claim 2 (Original):   The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein said respective RAID controlling units are connected to the plurality of individual connecting units.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended):   The apparatus as recited in claim 2, wherein said each network interface controlling unit is constructed by in a pair, namely two, and is contained into the plurality of RAID controlling units, plural number of the network interface controlling units are a first network interface controlling unit of said network interface controlling unit being connected to the connecting unit of one side and a second network interface controlling unit thereof being connected to the connecting unit of another side.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended):   The apparatus as recited in claim 3, wherein said each network interface controlling unit further comprises:

the first network interface controlling unit for processing processes the requirement of the numerous host computers; and

the second network interface controlling unit is used for fault tolerance in a communication between the respective RAID controlling units when the respective

RAID controlling units ~~do not have the occurrence of the error,~~ are not faulty and ~~said~~ the second network interface controlling unit ~~being~~ is used for executing a function of the first network interface controlling unit included in the respective RAID controlling units ~~of the RAID controlling unit having the occurrence of the error in case that~~ when ~~one given RAID controlling unit has the occurrence of the error~~ the respective RAID controlling unit is faulty.

Claim 5 (Original):   The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein said plurality of connecting units have connection ports more than three, the two connection ports among them being connected to said network interface controlling unit and the rest connection ports thereof being provided as a hub equipment connected with the numerous host computers.

Claim 6 (Original):   The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein said plurality of connecting units have the connection ports more than three, the two connection ports among them being connected to said network interface controlling unit and the rest connection ports thereof being provided as a network switch equipment connected with the numerous host computers.

Claim 7 (Original):   The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein said plurality of connecting units have the connection ports more than five, the four connection ports among them being connected to said network interface controlling unit and the rest connection ports thereof being provided as a switch connected with the numerous host computers.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended):   The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein said RAID controlling unit, said network interface controlling unit and said connecting unit are respectively constructed ~~by~~ in a pair, the first network interface controlling unit of a first RAID controlling unit being connected to a first connecting unit, the second network interface controlling unit of said first RAID controlling unit being connected to a second connecting unit, the first network interface controlling unit of a second RAID controlling unit being connected to the second connecting unit, and the second network interface controlling unit of the second RAID controlling unit being connected to the first connecting unit.

Claim 9 (New):   An apparatus for a redundant interconnection between multiple host computers and a RAID, the apparatus comprising:

a plurality of connection units for connecting the host computers and the RAID;

a first and a second RAID controllers, included in the RAID, each of which having a first network interface controller and a second network interface controller for processing requests from the plurality of the host computers connected through the plurality of the connection units,

wherein the first network interface controller in the first RAID controller supplies data to the host computers connected through the plurality of connection units and processes information transmitted from the second network interface controller in the second RAID controller,

wherein the first network interface controller in the second RAID controller supplies data to the host computers connected through the plurality of connection units and processes information transmitted from the second network interface controller in the first RAID controller,

wherein the second network interface controller in the first RAID controller is used for fault tolerance by performing functions of the first network interface controller in the second RAID controller when the second RAID controller is faulty, and

wherein the second network interface controller in the second RAID controller is used for fault tolerance by performing functions of the first network interface controller in the first RAID controller when the first RAID controller is faulty.